

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3136

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2399

USCINCEUR FOR GENERAL EADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MASS MARR GR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH GENERAL PAPANIKOLAOU

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MET APRIL 18 WITH HELLENIC AIR FORCE CHIEF PAPANIKOLAOU AT THE GENERAL'S REQUEST. THEY DISCUSSED THE GENERAL'S RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, HOMEPORTING, AND BILATERAL RELATIONS. PAPANIKOLAOU CAME DOWN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF PUSHING AHEAD WITH HOMEPORTING, AND AGAIN REQUESTED USG AID TO MODERNIZE GREEK ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR CONFERRED APRIL 18 WITH HAF CHIEF LT. GEN. PAPANIKOLAOU AT GENERAL PAPANIKOLAOU'S REQUEST. THEY REVIEWED PAPANIKOLAOU'S RECENT (MARCH 26-APRIL 3) TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. PAPANIKOLAOU WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF HIS RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON AND THANKED ALL WHO ASSISTED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. PAPANIKOLAOU DESCRIBED HIS CONVERSATION WITH CNO ZUMWALT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED HIS FIRM SUPPORT FOR HOMEPORTING. PAPANIKOLAOU SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE II HE IS COUNTING ON MORE INTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE HAF AND THE SIXTH FLEET AIRWING. HE HOPED THAT
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SIXTH FLEET WOULD GIVE SOME KIND OF LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE

TO THE HAF FOR THE F-4'S NOW BEING DELIVERED AND FOR THE A-7'S PAPANIKOLAOU INTENDS TO PROCURE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR REMINDED PAPANIKOLAOU OF THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING HOMEPORING AGREEMENT. WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESENT OPERATIONAL AGREEMENTS, THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING NEW SOUDA AB AND HOMEPORING PHASE II AGREEMENTS. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT PROVISIONS OF GREEK SOUNDA AB DRAFT SUCH AS FULL DISCLOSURE OF DETAILS OF SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS BE ELIMINATED.

4. PAPANIKOLAOU AGREED FULLY WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND ADDED HIS THOUGHT THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD GOTTEN INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL. HE OPINED THAT GREEK MILITARY SHOULD AGAIN HE MADE PRIMARY ARM OF GREEK GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD TALK TO PRIMMIN ABOUT SPEEDING UP THE PACE AND REMOVING NEEDLESS OBSTACLES. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WHILE FINAL USG DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE ABOUT PHASE II, TECHNICAL OBSTACLES SHOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY.

5. PAPANIKOLAOU REPEATED HIS NOW FAMILIAR REQUEST THAT USG HELPMODERNIZE THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES IN ANY APPROPRIATE WAY. THE AMBASSADOR REAFFIRMED OUR INTEREST IN RESPONDING POSITIVELY INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE. PAPANIKOLAOU RAISED QUESTION OF THE NIKE MISSILES WHICH HE HAD HEARD WERE BEING PHASED OUT OF THE U.S. DEFENSE SYTEM, AND INQUIRED WHETHER THEY MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE AT A NOMINAL PRICE TO HELP BOLSTER GREEK AIR DEFENSE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON THIS POINT.

6. IN DISCUSSING BILATERAL RELATIONS, PAPANIKOLAOU EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE APPARENT HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF U.S. CONGRESS VIS-A-VIS GREECE. THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED THAT PEOPLE OF U.S. ACCORDED GREECE A SPECIAL PLACE IN FAMILY OF NATIONS AND NOTED THAT GREEKS WOULD NOT LIKELY WANT IT OTHERWISE. IN THIS CONTEXT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION CONVINCED THAT GREECE NEEDED GOVERNMENT WHICH REPRESENTED A CONSENSUS OF THE PEOPLE. PROLONGED DISREGARD FOR POPULAR WILL SIMPLY DOES NOT APPEAR FEASIBLE. PAPANIKOLAOU NODDED HIS ASSENT AND EXPRESSED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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VIW THAT GREEK REGIME WOULD IN FACT TAKE MEASURES IN THIS DIRECTION. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE KIND OF UNREST AND DISARRAY FOUND IN OTHER "FREE" COUNTRIES WAS A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.

7. PAPANIKOLAOU LISTENED CAREFULLY, WAS FRIENDLY, AND REEMPHASIZED THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO CONTINUED GOOD US-GOG RELATIONS.

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